

Los Angeles County alone, there were over 170,000 reported cases of child abuse or neglect in 2010. With over half of those referrals being made by mandatory reporters, those professionals required by law to report signs of maltreatment, I applaud our school officials and social service providers who are defending children's wellbeing.

It is vital that we are all equally prepared to speak out for victims who are unable to seek help for themselves. The youngest children, in particular, are most vulnerable to abuse with almost 32 percent of reported victims under the age of four years.

The effects of abuse and neglect can last a lifetime and include physical injuries, mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, increased risk for violent behavior, and lower levels of economic well-being. Such long-term effects hinder the ability to form healthy and positive relationships as adults. Abuse can truly become a cycle, harming generation after generation if nothing is done to intervene.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary work of the Miller Children's Hospital in the 37th district and its commitment to promoting positive parenting. The hospital offers training for medical professionals to recognize more subtle signs of abuse as well as early learning opportunities for children and their families to develop healthy family relationships.

Efforts aimed at prevention and early detection are critical in helping our nation's children grow up with the confidence and skills necessary to achieve the American Dream. These efforts can include programs in parent education and substance abuse treatment. Through these investments, we can target those specific circumstances and stresses that often lead to an increased likelihood of abuse.

Mr. Speaker, as I rise today to observe National Child Abuse Prevention Month, I ask all communities to invest in preventative measures and programs to end the cycle of child abuse once and for all. This month will serve as a reminder of our moral responsibility to ensure a bright future for our children and our nation.

CELEBRATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly today to honor the Environmental Technology Center, ETC, on the occasion of its tenth anniversary. Located at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, CA, ETC was one of the first 'green' buildings on a university campus.

Before the concept of a green building was a familiar part of our national culture, Rocky Rohwedder, Professor and Chair of the Environmental Studies and Planning, ENSP, department, realized that an environmental center could provide a valuable teaching tool. He and Professor Jean Merriman Falbo (now retired) sought grants to realize this vision. I was proud to assist their effort with funds from the National Science Foundation, NSF. With further support from the California Energy Com-

mission, the majority of the funding was in place.

Partnering with experts at Sonoma State University and in the community, ETC was carefully designed and opened its doors in the fall of 2001. The Center represented an exciting new advance in both building and education. Functioning as a teaching tool, demonstration project, and resource hub, it is used as a classroom for the Environmental Studies and Planning Department and several sustainable certificate programs as well as a center for service learning, technical assistance, and community-based research.

Considered a Zero Energy Building because it actually generates more energy than it consumes, its sustainable technologies include roof integrated photovoltaics, advanced window systems, extensive use of daylighting, recycled materials, and thermal mass as well as energy and water-efficient landscaping.

In February, 2002, shortly after ETC opened, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a Congressional field hearing in the Center on the theme of "A Renewable Roadmap to Energy Independence." As the Ranking Member of the Science Energy Subcommittee, I was able to bring nationally known experts whose testimony delivered a clear message: that we could become energy independent with sustainable technologies using the techniques exemplified in the building. In addition, faculty at the Center, such as Dr. Sascha von Meier, testified in Washington, DC, before the Committee and later helped me in writing alternative energy legislation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating all those who made the Environmental Technology Center possible and who continue to make it a focus of research and application for sustainable building ten years later. I applaud their commitment and foresight in creating "The Building That Teaches."

MARKING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL TAIWAN CAUCUS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus.

Founded on April 9, 2001, the caucus was intended to serve as a forum to educate Members of Congress on issues affecting U.S.-Taiwan Relations, and to provide a platform for exploring ways to positively enhance and strengthen U.S. relations and cooperation with the government and people of Taiwan in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act. It has grown from 85 Members at the time of its establishment to the current roster of 155, making it the second largest country caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In the past 10 years, the membership of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus has remained solidly bipartisan, reflecting the broad and stable consensus in the U.S. Congress regarding the importance of Taiwan. Through the issuance of various joint letters, its agenda has focused first and foremost on maintaining faithful adherence to legal obligations and pol-

icy principles of the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, as well as the 1982 "Six Assurances" to Taiwan. Together, these two documents form the cornerstone of our relationship with the people of Taiwan and have contributed immeasurably to the maintenance of peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region, while allowing Taiwan to blossom into a vibrant, open society, eager to engage with the rest of the world.

Today, Taiwan is well on the path to becoming a mature and fully consolidated democracy, and our shared values now form an ever stronger foundation of trust for cooperation across our many areas of mutual interest. At the same time, the military threat posed by the People's Republic of China to Taiwan's democratic way of life only continues to grow with each passing day.

In the coming 10 years, we hope to forge a stronger consultative role for Congress in the formulation of Taiwan policy. We look forward to working closely with our allies—both abroad and at home—to find solutions for ensuring Taiwan's long-term security, and to deepen our dialogue with the people of Taiwan.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT ERICKSON AS THE 2012 HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER 398 HIGH SCHOOL AND OVERALL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Scott Erickson, the 2012 Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 High School and Overall Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Erickson's joy and passion for teaching began at an early age, from watching his mother, also a teacher. Her example, coupled with the skills he learned through his work as a summer camp counselor, became an inspirational force behind his current "learn by doing" teaching approach, which engages students through lesson plans that incorporate activities and experiments using modern-day technology. Throughout his career, Mr. Erickson has used this approach to educate students of all ages ranging from elementary school to high school.

A teacher at Milton High School in Northwest Florida, he continues to hone his teaching techniques, always striving for excellence and establishing award winning technology and aviation programs. Mr. Erickson has played an integral role in sponsoring Milton High School's Robotics Team and led the team to its notable victory at the Emerald Coast BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology) Robotics competition. Additionally, through his tireless efforts in fundraising and procuring necessary grants, he became the driving force behind the creation of Milton High School's Aviation Academy—a state-of-the-art teaching and flight simulation facility—which continues to yield positive results. Several of his students are now on the path to earning pilot ratings. Equally commendable, several of Mr. Erickson's aviation students were selected to join the National Flight Academy, a multi-day immersion program that uses aviation to inspire students to